

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

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RALPH BAKER,

Plaintiff,

v.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS, et al.,

Defendants.

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Civ. No. 23-3436 (RK) (TJB)

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

Plaintiff, Ralph Baker (“Plaintiff” or “Baker”), is a state prisoner currently incarcerated at the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton, New Jersey. He is proceeding *pro se* with a civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. *See* ECF No. 1. Previously, this Court administratively terminated this matter as Plaintiff had not paid the filing fee nor had he applied to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *See* ECF No. 4. Subsequently, Plaintiff filed an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, *see* ECF No. 5, such that the Clerk will be ordered to reopen this case so that the *in forma pauperis* application can be analyzed.

Plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be denied without prejudice. As this Court noted in a prior order, a complete *in forma pauperis* application includes a certified inmate trust account statement for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of Plaintiff’s complaint. *See* ECF No. 4 at 1 (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2)). Plaintiff’s recent *in forma pauperis* application lacks that required certified six-month account statement.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It is worth noting that Plaintiff filed a prisoner account statement contemporaneously with his complaint. *See* ECF 1-3 at 7-8. However, *that* account statement has not been certified by an appropriate prison official.

Accordingly, IT IS on this 4th day of December, 2023,

ORDERED that the Clerk shall reopen this case so that this Court can consider Plaintiff's *in forma pauperis* application; and it is further

ORDERED that Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, ECF No. 5, is denied without prejudice; and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk shall re-administratively terminate this case; and it is further

ORDERED that if Plaintiff wishes to reopen this action, he shall either pay the \$402.00 filing fee (\$350.00 filing fee plus \$52.00 administrative fee)<sup>2</sup> or submit a complete *in forma pauperis* application within thirty (30) days of the date of this memorandum and order; and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk shall serve on Plaintiff by regular U.S. mail the following: (1) a copy of this memorandum and order; and (2) a blank copy of an application by a prisoner to proceed *in forma pauperis* in a civil rights case.

  
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ROBERT KIRSCH  
United States District Judge

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<sup>2</sup> Effective December 1, 2023, the administrative fee increased from \$52.00 to \$55.00. However, given that this action was initiated before that fee increase, should Plaintiff elect to pay this fee rather than proceed *in forma pauperis*, he shall only owe the administrative fee owed at the time this action was initiated - \$52.00.